19

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

...I'LL DO IT!

I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD!

DO DO

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO CATCH THE MOON'S REFLECTION IN THE WATER...

DO DO

DO (TMP)

DO

THE SOS BRIGADE'S THE ONLY CLUB I'M TRYING OUT FOR!

...COULD SHE BE A FIFTH POWER...?

BAAN (BAAM)

THIS FRESHMAN WITH HER HARUHI-LEVEL FITNESS...

α—9

ORIGINAL STORY **NAGARU TANIGAWA**

MANGA **GAKU TSUGANO**

CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOIZI ITO

19

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

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I'LL BE GOING HOME FOR TODAY, THEN!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

BYE!

TAN (TMP)

QUITE A CHEERFUL GIRL...

... WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

MY, BUT SHE'S CHARM-ING.

BATAN (SLAM)

She seems like she'll be quite good at running errands.

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT?

You should be happy to have a cute new junior member.

There's nothing to worry about.

There won't be any problems with her.

I'M POSITIVE I'VE NEVER MET HER BEFORE.

I'VE GOT NO MEMORY OF HER WHATSOEVER.

WHERE IS THIS STRANGE SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU COMING FROM?

HON-ESTLY, I'M SUR-PRISED.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT A PETITE LITTLE FRESHMAN LIKE HER THAT'S SO DISTURBING...?

MAYBE IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH HER. MAYBE IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.

YEAH...

BUT THIS REALLY ISN'T AN EVERY-DAY OCCUR-RENCE.

SO SHE WAS PLAN-NING NOT TO LET ANYONE IN ALL ALONG! I KNEW IT!

HMM...

I WASN'T EXPECT-ING ANY OF THEM TO MAKE IT.

THAT'S WHY I MADE THE FINAL TEST A MARATHON.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

SHU (SHF)

IT'S QUITE A PHENOMENON, REALLY.

LET'S SEE HERE...

GU GU GU CLEAND

INCINERATED? THAT'S AWFUL

HERE.

THIS IS THE SURVEY I GAVE OUT BEFORE.

I INCINERATED THE REST OF THEM AND ONLY KEPT HERS.

DON
(DLM)

1. EXPLAIN THE REASONING BEHIND YOUR AMBITION TO JOIN THE SOS BRIGADE.
IT'S BEST TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT. I'M ALREADY IN LOVE WITH IT.

2. IF YOU ARE ADMITTED, IN WHAT WAY CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
ANYTHING I'M ALLOWED TO DO, I WILL TRY.

3. OF ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, SLIDERS, AND ESPERS, WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BEST?
I'D WANT TO TALK TO AN ALIEN THE MOST. I'D MOST WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH A TIME TRAVELER. AN ESPER SEEMS LIKE THEY'D BE THE MOST PROFITABLE. A SLIDER SEEMS LIKE THEY WOULD OPEN UP THE MOST POSSIBILITIES.

4. WHY?
I WROTE MY REASONING AS PART OF MY PREVIOUS ANSWER. SORRY.

5. EXPLAIN ANY MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED.
I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED ANY. SORRY.

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PITHY PHRASE?
"UNPRECEDENTED AND UNBEATABLE".

SOS

7. IF YOU COULD DO ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
BUILD A CITY ON MARS AND NAME IT AFTER MYSELF. LIKE "WASHINGTON, D.C." HEH.

8. FINAL QUESTION: EXPRESS YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
IF I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO, I'D PURPOSEFULLY MESS UP MY VISION AND WEAR GLASSES.

9. IF YOU CAN BRING ALONG ANYTHING REALLY INTERESTING, YOU GET EXTRA CREDIT.
PLEASE TRY TO FIND SOMETHING.
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BRING SOMETHING SOON.

SO THAT'S THE KIND OF GIRL SHE IS.

YASUMI WATAHASHI, APPARENTLY.

WATARI... BASHI?

HOW'S THIS PRO-NOUNCED?

"IT'S ME, WATAHASHI." ATASHI WA, WATAHASHI.

WATA-HASHI... WATA...

"IT'S ME"...?

"IT'S ME. M-E..." ATASHI WA...

"ME." ...WATASHI.

SHE'D EXECUTED A PERFECT INFILTRATION.

WHY WOULD SHE CALL ME, SPECIFICALLY, OUT OF THE BLUE?

PoPo

Pa

PoN!!

WATAHASHI YASUMI.

THE PHONE CALL FROM BEFORE.

IT'S ME.

M-E, ME.

...?

KYON, TACHIBANA HERE. KOIZUMI COUNT FAST.

That's all.

I might need your help in the future, so thanks in advance.

I just wanted to hear my upperclassman voice.

DOES THAT MEAN SOMETHING?

OR IS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE ...?

BUT KOIZUMI AND NAGATO HAVEN'T REACTED AT ALL.

I CAN'T AGREE WITH THAT VIEW, KYON.

"PLEASE CALL ME 'YASUMI,' IF YOU WOULD."

"AND PLEASE TRY TO PRONOUNCE IT USING KATAKANA."

NO, IT'S PROBABLY TOO SOON FOR THAT.

MAYBE THE LEAD IN OUR NEXT MOVIE.

ANYWAY, I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD MAKE THE NEW RECRUIT DO?

ハルヒ 春日はるひ

HIRAGANA, KATAKANA, AND KANJI ALL HAVE THEIR OWN MEANINGS AND INTONATIONS.

ASIDE HARUHI (KATAKANA), HARUHI (KANJI), HARUHI (HIRAGANA)

I DON'T KNOW THIS GIRL.

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS SOMETHING AMISS IN THIS STRANGE DISHARMONY?

WHAT IS YASUMI WATAHASHI'S SECRET?

...AS I DID THE ROUTINE WORK OF CLIMBING THE HILL TO SCHOOL.

A DAY CONTAINING HARDLY ANYTHING, LEAVING ME FREE TO RUMINATE ...

THE NEXT DAY, WEDNESDAY.

β—9

KYON!

AND WHY WOULD YOU FEEL THE NEED TO DELIVER THAT OPINION HERE AND NOW?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KUNIKIDA?

YOU'RE EVERY BIT THE PERSON I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

...YOU AND I ARE THE SAME KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

I JUST MEAN ...

I FEEL BAD FOR TANIGUCHI SAYING THIS, BUT I KIND OF FELT LIKE I WANTED TO STAY AWAY FROM HER.

I STILL FEEL THAT WAY TOO.

BUT KUYOH-SAN'S DIF-FERENT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYBODY WHO WOULDN'T LOOK AT KUYOH AND FEEL SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.

WELL, NOT REALLY.

VERY PERCEPTIVE.

...MAYBE IT'S MY IMAGI-NATION ...

...BUT I GOT THE SAME FEELING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN AND NAGATO-SAN.

SHE'S JUST NOT A REGULAR HUMAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S GOOD OR BAD, THOUGH.

ALSO, TO BE HONEST...

I JUST WANTED TO SAY SOME-THING.

SORRY. ANYWAY, DON'T SWEAT IT.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT WORTH WORRYING ABOUT, THOUGH.

SINCE TSURUYA-SAN HANGS OUT WITH YOU GUYS PRETTY REGULARLY AND ALL...

IF THE SOS BRIGADE EVER NEEDS MY ASSISTANCE, I WANT YOU TO LET ME KNOW.

PREFERABLY WHEN TSURUYA-SAN'S ALONG.

I CAN'T HELP NOTING THAT HIS MENTION OF TSURUYA-SAN WAS QUITE INSIGHTFUL.

DID HE JUST WANT TO PROVIDE ME WITH A LITTLE BIT OF ADVICE?

WE LEFT IT WITH HER, AND WOULD PROBABLY NEED IT EVENTUALLY.

THAT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT WE DUG OUT OF HER FAMILY'S MOUNTAIN...

TSURUYA-SAN...

SHE'S THE MOST RELIABLE NORMAL HUMAN THERE IS.

BUT IT NEVER HURT TO HAVE AN EXTRA TRUMP CARD.

WHO KNEW WHAT IT WAS FOR.

WHOSE DOING IS THIS?

THE INSTINCTS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME SEEM TO BE GETTING SHARPER.

HE MIGHT SOON BE ELEVATED OUT OF "RANDOM CLASSMATE" STATUS IN HARUHI'S MIND.

AND KUNIKIDA HIMSELF WAS RATHER PERCEPTIVE.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM GNOSTICISM?

PAN (SMACK)

I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND SOCIALISM.

NOT AT ALL.

SHU (WSHH)

YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A PHILOSOPHY, OR PERHAPS A RELIGION.

HA HA...

YOU PROBABLY SHOULD.

JUST FOR FUTURE REFER-ENCE.

BUT IT WAS WELL-ESTABLISHED BY THE TIME CHRISTIANITY WAS CREATED.

OF COURSE, THESE DAYS IT'S CONSIDERED COMPLETELY HERETICAL.

PAN

WHY WAS THE WORLD SO FULL OF POINTLESS SUFFERING?

PEOPLE IN ANCIENT TIMES THOUGHT THUS:

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH WICKED-NESS.

...THEN JUST LEAVE IT ALONE?

SHU- (SHWP)

SHUDDUP!

WHY WOULD GOD HAVE CREATED SUCH A TERRIBLE WORLD ...

PAN

"THE WORLD WAS NOT CREATED BY A BENE-VOLENT CREATOR ...

HE PROBABLY REALIZED HIS GAME WAS ON THE PATH TO THE BAD ENDING, SO HE GAVE UP.

BUT COULDN'T WE THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY?

QUITE POSSIBLY.

SHU (WHSH)

"....BUT INSTEAD, A MALICIOUS ONE."

PAN (SMACK)

IF THE BLUEPRINTS ARE BAD, THE BUILDING IS GOING TO BE BAD TOO.

IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING, DOESN'T IT?

IF THE WORLD WERE ENTIRELY EVIL WITHOUT ANY GOOD ANYWHERE WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CONCEIVE OF GOODNESS

THE FACT THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE EVIL FOR WHAT IT IS PROVES THAT WE CAN RESIST IT WITH GOOD

WHY, YOU ASK?

HOWEVER HUMANS ARE NOT ENTIRELY EVIL

IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THAT GOD OVERLOOKS EVIL ACTS BECAUSE GOD HIMSELF IS EVIL

...BUT WATCHES OVER IT FROM OUTSIDE ..

IN OTHER WORDS, GOD DOES NOT EXIST IN THE WORLD

WAS THE GENERAL LIGHT THAT SHONE FROM SOME OTHER THAN THE TRUE GOD WHO STILL EXISTED SOMEWHERE

AND BELIEVED THAT THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THAT FACT

SO THE ANCIENTS BELIEVED THE WORLD WAS CREATED BY A FALSE GOD.

AND BECAUSE THIS TRADITION HOLDS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD TO BE A FAKE, IT'S BEEN UNDER-STANDABLY SUPPRESSED.

KYU (SQUEAK)

INDEED.

WELL, THEY'D HAVE TO THINK THAT. OTHERWISE WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

BASHA

BASHA

BASHA SPLASH

INCIDEN-TALLY...

...GNOSTICISM IS GENERALLY IN ACCORD WITH MODERN THINKING.

I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MAKING SOME LEAPS IN LOGIC THERE...

BASHA

IT'S BEEN A CONDITION THROUGH-OUT HUMAN HISTORY

WE'VE REACHED A DEAD END IN OUR EVOLU-TION.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OUR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES, THE BIOLOGICAL LIMITS ON OUR INTELLIGENCE WILL NOT CHANGE.

BASHA

TACHIBANA-SAN'S FACTION REGARDS SUZUMIYA AS A FALSE GOD.

...WHICH NECESSARILY PREVENTS HER FROM BEING THE TRUE GOD.

ALTHOUGH IT'S POSSIBLE THEY ONLY THINK THEY'VE FOUND HER.

NOW, WITH THAT AS OUR CONTEXT ...

BUT SHE LACKS SELF-AWARENESS ...

SHE MAY WELL BE THE CREATOR OF THIS WORLD.

AND NOW THEY'VE FOUND SOMEONE THEY CAN BELIEVE IS THE TRUE GOD.

ALMOST LIKE THE STEADY-STATE THEORY OF THE UNIVERSE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SASAKI-SAN IS VERY STABLE.

FOR A CREATOR, SHE'S NOT VERY INTERESTED IN CREATING.

SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CLOSED SPACE IS FILLED WITH THE WILL TO DESTROY.

NOW THEN, SHALL WE ADJOURN?

THAT'S HARD TO KNOW.

I WOULD RATHER LEAVE THE DECISION UP TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS BOTH OF THEM EQUALLY WELL.

SHE CONSISTENTLY CREATES A FIXED AMOUNT OF CLOSED SPACE AND DOESN'T ALLOW IT TO RUN RAMPANT.

SO WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?

AND YOU AND SASAKI-SAN...

THE AGENCY AND KYOKO TACHIBANA'S GROUP.

ASAHINA-SAN AND FUJIWARA THE TIME TRAVELER.

NAGATO-SAN AND KUYOH-SAN.

SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN THERE...

AND ALL HEADING TOWARD A SINGLE POINT.

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED AND ENTANGLED BY A SINGLE THREAD.

AND I BELIEVE THE NEXT TIME WILL BE THE SAME.

SO FAR YOUR ACTIONS HAVE ALL BEEN RIGHT.

YOU NEED ONLY ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN WILL.

AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IMMEDIATELY.

TO (TMP)

HEY, WHOSE LOAFERS ARE...

!

TA (TAP)

WEL-COME HOME!

I'M HOME.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

I READ IT IN AN ESSAY SOME-WHERE ...

CAT PERSON-ALITIES ARE HIT-OR-MISS...

...COM-PLETELY IRRESPEC-TIVE OF LINEAGE OR BREED.

HEY.

HEY.

NICE CAT.

HA HA...

SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU REALLY HIT ON A GREAT CAT WITH SHAMISEN HERE.

HE'S GOT A CERTAIN CLEVERNESS ABOUT HIM, AND A CERTAIN WILDNESS.

NADERI (PET)

IT MAKES YOU WONDER IF HE UNDERSTANDS HUMANS BETTER THAN EVEN A CHILD WOULD.

YOU'RE NOT JUST LUCKY FOR OWNING A MALE CALICO.

CATS THINK OF HUMANS AS JUST BEING SLIGHTLY LARGER CATS.

THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T SHOW US ANY DEF-ERENCE.

TO

TO

HAH!

YOU'VE GOT IT BACK-WARDS, KYON.

SHU (WSH)

SOME-TIMES HE ACTS LIKE HE THINKS HE'S SUPERIOR TO HUMANS.

HE DOESN'T EVEN THINK OF HIMSELF AS A CAT.

SHOO!
OKAY, OUT.
AWW!
HMPH
DOGS PROBABLY THINK OF THEMSELVES AS BEING THE SAME SPECIES AS HUMANS.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE FAITHFUL TO THEIR MASTERS.
FU FU
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM DOGS IN THAT WAY.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO CATCH OUR OWN FOOD.
WWAH!
THEY JUST THINK OF US AS BEING KIND OF CLUMSY.
AT LEAST TO THE FRONT DOOR.
HEE HEE HEE!
YOU USED TO BRING HER OVER ALL THE TIME.
YOU MEANIE!
BUT I'VE BEEN HAVING FUN!
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL.
I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S HAD A GOOD HOME.
SHE'S DEFINITELY YOUR SISTER, KYON.
FU FU FU!
I'M HAPPY YOU REMEMBER.
KIDS SURE DO GROW UP QUICKLY.

I WAS THINKING YOU MUST BE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO YOUR LIMIT.

OH, THIS AND THAT.

WHAT IS IT YOU CAME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

SO.

...SO LET'S GET TO THE POINT.

BECAUSE IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING THERE WERE TOO MANY INTERFERING VOICES...

...THE DATA OVERMIND AND THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ALIENS HUMANITY HAS IMAGINED.

BUT...

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...

...I'VE IMAGINED WHAT EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE WOULD LOOK LIKE, IF IT EXISTED.

FIRST, I'LL TELL WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT KUYOH SUOH-SAN.

WHAT I THINK IS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN REASONING AND VALUES.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THAT ON THE SPOT?

WHAT ...?

WHAT'S THE MOST PRECIOUS THING IN THE WORLD TO YOU?

FOR EXAMPLE, KYON.

STILL OTHERS MIGHT SAY HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS.

SOME MIGHT SAY MONEY.

OTHERS, KNOWL-EDGE.

IN THIS SOCIETY OF COMPLEX, RAPID INFORMATION, NO ONE EVER QUANTIFIES THEIR VALUE SYSTEMS.

IT'S TRUE. I COULDN'T DO IT EITHER.

HERE AN INEVITABLE QUESTION ARISES.

BUT I DON'T THINK PEOPLE IN THE PAST WOULD'VE HAD TO THINK SO MUCH ABOUT THAT QUESTION.

THEIR ANSWERS WERE MUCH MORE LIMITED.

PI (FLICK)

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, KYON.

DIVERSI-FICATION MAKES CHOICE DIFFICULT.

WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY OPTIONS, PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHICH CHOICE TO TAKE...?

FAR FROM DIVERSI-FICATION, THIS LEADS TO CONCEN-TRATION AND HOMOG-ENIZATION.

BUT THAT'S GETTING IT EXACTLY BACK-WARDS.

WHEN THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION, PEOPLE CHOOSE ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY.

SEEMS LIKE THE ALIENS HAVE PRIVILEGED THE EVOLUTION OF HOMOGENEITY...

...BUT THEY'VE REALIZED THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE.

AND THAT HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN IS THE KEY.

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?

LET'S THINK ABOUT THAT.

FORTUNATELY, FUJIWARA-KUN AND TACHIBANA-SAN, AND EVEN KUYOH-SAN, CAN ALL UNDERSTAND OUR LANGUAGE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE AN AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOLER LIKE ME CAN DO MUCH, THOUGH.

THEY'RE UNIVERSAL ABILITIES ALL HUMANITY POSSESSES.

LANGUAGE... AND THOUGHT. THESE ARE OUR BIGGEST WEAPONS.

ADULTS WOULD ONLY GET IN OUR WAY WITH ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATIONS, AND POINTLESS MEETINGS.

LISTEN, KYON.

THIS STORY BELONGS TO YOU AND ME.

THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

YOU SEE, THESE MATTERS REVOLVE AROUND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

AND THAT'S THE WEAKNESS WE CAN USE.

AND ABOUT THAT TIME TRAVELER ...

THIS IS EARTH, SO THE ALIENS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE ON AN EARTH-SCALE LEVEL.

THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE TIME TRAVELERS.

AND I THINK THAT MIGHT BE OUR OPENING.

THAT GUY...

I GET THE SENSE HE WANTS TO WRAP THINGS UP PRETTY QUICKLY.

HE'S BEEN VERY CLEAR ABOUT HIS WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE HIS GOALS.

OH, BROTHER...

BUT YOU'D PREFER THAT YOURSELF, WOULDN'T YOU?

YOU NEED TO BRING DOWN NAGATO-SAN'S FEVER AND ALL.

HE'LL TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS TOMORROW.

THIS IS A TOTAL GUESS ON MY PART...

...BUT THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE TO SIMPLY PROVE OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

...BECAUSE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE THEIR RAISON D'ÊTRE INTO REALITY.

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVERYONE IS WORKING SO HARD...

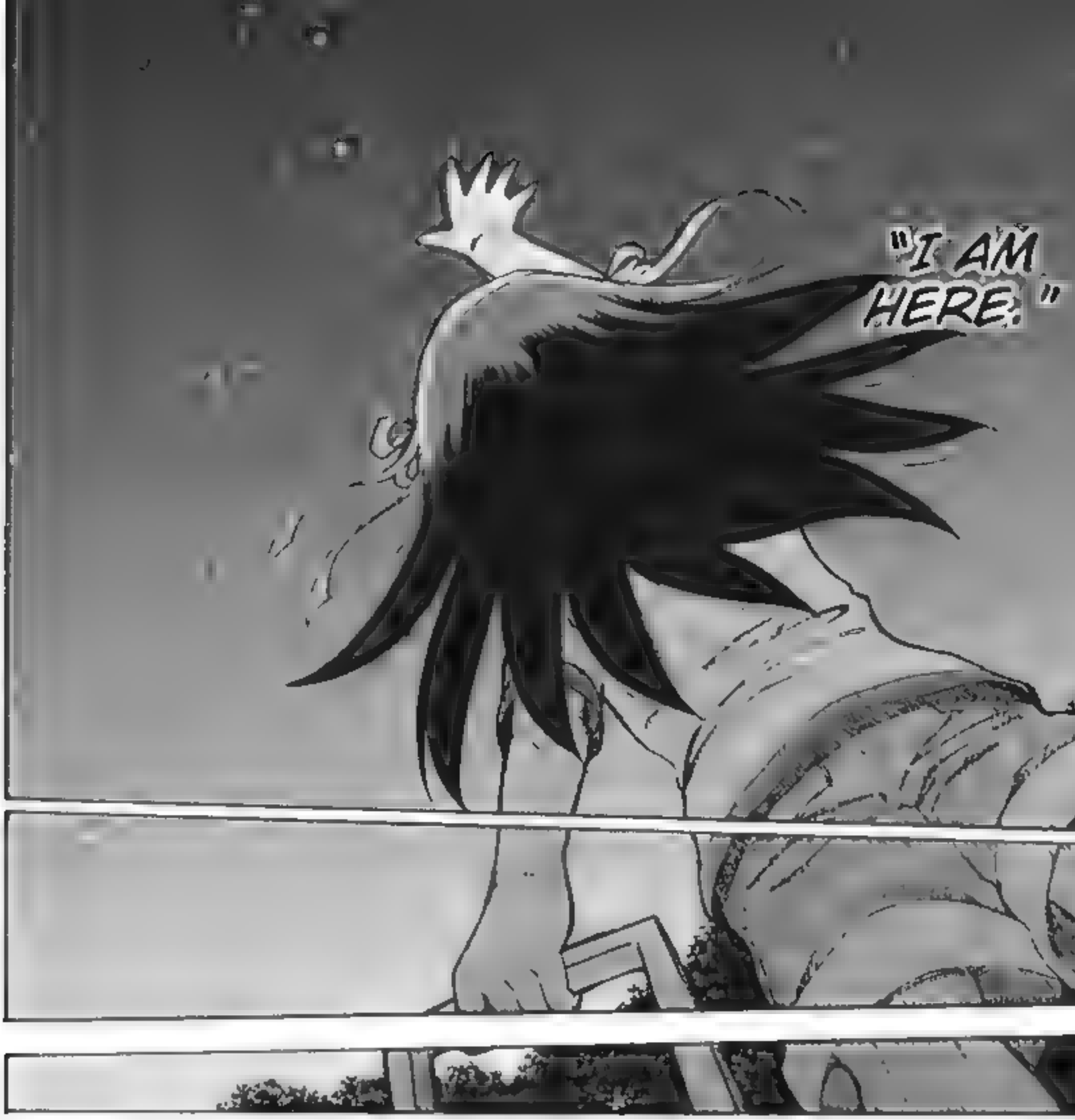
THEY'RE ALL TAKING ACTION WITH THAT SIMPLE GOAL IN MIND.

EACH OF THEM EXIST ON THEIR OWN...

THEY HAVE BUT A SINGLE WISH.

...AND TRY TO GET ANOTHER BEING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR EXISTENCE.

A SINGLE PLAINTIVE HOPE: "DON'T FORGET ABOUT US."


"I AM HERE."

NOT THEM... OR ANYONE, REALLY.
...I DON'T GET IT.

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING YOU WRAPPED UP IN ALL OF THIS...

SO I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THAT.

...BUT I'VE HARDLY EVER SEEN AN EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE THAT WASN'T A SMILE.

WHEN I TALK WITH YOU, I ALWAYS WIND UP WITH MY FACE STUCK IN A SMILE.

HOW'D IT GO?

I THOUGHT I'D TRY BEING A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS FOR ONCE.

SO, ANYWAY ...

...WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO SAY?

GOOD FOR YOU, KYON.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

THAT'S ALL. WHY DO YOU ASK?

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU IN PERSON.

NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

IF I'M THE GUY YOU WANT, I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU.

NO REA-SON.

...HAVE KIND OF A WEIRD VIBE

KYON-KUN, AND SASAKI-ONEESAN...

GIRLS ARE A HANDFUL...OR MAYBE THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

SHE'S A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VII : END

THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE JUST SHOWING OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

IT'S A SIMPLE AND SINCERE MESSAGE.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT FUJIWARA-KUN OR KUYOH-SAN.

β—9

SO WHAT'S YOUR REASON FOR EXISTING?

SASAKI ...

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO UP AND ASK? HEH.

OBVIOUSLY IT'S TO PASS ON MY GENES, OF COURSE.

OR WERE YOU HOPING FOR A LESS EVOLUTIONARY ANSWER?

QUESTIONS LIKE WHY ARE WE BORN, WHY DO WE LIVE...

...THESE ARE NO MORE THAN ZEN RIDDLES.

"TO THINK."

GIVEN THAT, MY ANSWER WOULD BE...

AND...

"TO GO ON THINKING."

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE BEHIND SOME-THING THAT WILL ENDURE IN THIS WORLD ...

... OTHER THAN YOUR GENES ...

THAT'S AN EX-CELLENT QUES-TION, KYON.

TO STOP THINKING IS THE SAME AS DYING.

AND WHAT'S AT THE END OF ALL THAT THINKING?

GREAT WORKS OF CULTURAL ART...

ENTIRELY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SCIENCES.

...TO EPOCH-MAKING TOOLS...

FROM HUGE, FUTILE MONUMENTS...

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY, WE HUMANS HAVE LEFT BEHIND ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

AND WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM ALIENS OR TIME TRAVELERS.

I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING, RAISE IT UP, AND LEAVE IT TO ENDURE.

FU FU!

MY THOUGHTS ARE MINE ALONE.

AND I DON'T WANT ANY INTER-FERENCE.

SOME-THING BESIDES MY OWN DNA.

OR SO HON-ESTLY.

I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE NEVER HEARD SASAKI SPEAK SO PASSION-ATELY ABOUT SOME-THING.

ALTHOUGH, I DO FEEL LIKE...

...I COULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH TACHIBANA-SAN.

TO (TMP)

Fu Fu Fu ...

C'MON, KYON, NOT YOU TOO.

I DOUBT I COULD HANDLE IT.

...YOU COULD MAKE ALL OF THIS COME TRUE.

SASAKI.

IF YOU HAD POWER LIKE HARUHI HAS...

3 10 17 24 31

I MEAN, HER VERY BEING IS BASICALLY A MIRACLE...

IT'S A MIRACLE SHE'S ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE IN THE WORLD.

I COULD NEVER BE LIKE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

SHA (FWISH)

THEN THERE'S YOU, OBJECT OF THE AFFINITY OF TWO DEMIGODS, HER AND ME.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE POWERLESS.

SHU (SHF)

SUZUMIYA-SAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME-THING LIKE A GOD.

AND APPAR-ENTLY PEOPLE THINK THE SAME OF ME TOO.

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11
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IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE DONE, YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SO HAVE A LITTLE SELF-CONFIDENCE, EH, KYON?
YOU'LL PULL BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE NEW STAGE.
YOU HAVE ALL THE MASTER KEYS.
YOU WILL END UP RESOLVING THIS MATTER.

TON (THUMP)

トン

AH, ACTU-ALLY ...

...THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON I CAME TODAY...

TO (TMP)

トン

YEAH, SEE YOU.

BYE BYE!

トン TO

トン TO

トン TO

OH...

NO NEED TO SEE ME OFF.

WELL, I SHOULD BE GOING.

?

BYE BYE!

I SHOULDN'T TAKE ASKING YOU ABOUT THIS STUFF FOR GRANTED.

...BUT NEVER MIND.

IN THE END, IT'S MY OWN PROB-LEM.

I'M GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOU AND TALK ABOUT THINGS, KYON.

IT'S HELPED ME MAKE UP MY MIND.

YOU'RE MY ONE AND ONLY DEAR FRIEND.

EVEN AS MY RESOLVE BURNED HOT, THERE WAS A COOLER, MORE LOGICAL VERSION OF ME THERE TOO.

AND HE ASKED THIS:

TO GET NAGATO BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF.

MIGHT AS WELL DO IT.

...OR SOME-THING.

IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN— HAD TO BE— HER.

WASN'T THERE SOMEONE BESIDES ME WHO COULD TAKE UP THE ROLE OF THE TRANSCENDENT HERO?

PAA (BEAM)

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS, SENPAI!

I'M SO EXCITED TO BE HERE!

AS OF TODAY, I'M A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE!

α—10

I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW, BUT I'LL INTRO-DUCE HER AGAIN.

YASUMI WATAHASHI-CHAN...

...HAVING PASSED A SERIES OF FAIR AND PUBLIC TESTS, IS OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

"BISHI (SNAP)

SHE NEEDS TO BE DRILLED GOOD AND HARD ON ALL THE KNOW-HOW SHE'LL NEED...

...OVER THE COMING YEAR!

I'LL DO MY BEST!!

GOTCHA!

BUWAA (VOOOM)

CLEANING!? LEAVE IT TO ME!

CAN'T REACH...

DESPITE MY LIMITED ABILITY, I HOPE YOU'LL SEE FIT TO INSTRUCT ME IN YOUR WAYS!!

TEA, IS IT!?

THIS IS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CUP

EEK, I WANNA WEAR A MAID OUTFIT!!

BAAN (ZOOM)

PLEASE, TRY IT!!

COMING RIGHT UP!

!?

PAA (BEAM)

GU (GULP)

LET'S SEE HERE ...

IT'S CALLED ROOI-BOS TEA!

HERE'S YOUR TEA!

YAAY!

I KNOW, RIGHT!!?

GU (SQUEEZE)

PYOKO (HOP)

YEAH!

TASTES LIKE IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

WHAT A CURIOUS FLAVOR.

What!!?

Would you have preferred a guy?

With another female member, it's...

...more cheerfu., somehow.

!?

WAI

WAI

WAI

WAI (CHATTER)

Our right to free speech was endangered enough already...

It's sad but true.

It's about balance.

Don't you think we're at a bit of a disadvantage with only two boys but four girls?

I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT! LEMME AT IT!

THIS IS THE WEB-SITE KYON MADE FOR THE SOS BRIGADE.

THINK YOU COULD MAKE IT A LITTLE FLASHIER?

WELL, A LITTLE ...

YES!

BY THE WAY, YASUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU GOOD WITH COMPU-TERS?

MORE WEIRDLY, MORE LIKE.

NO DOUBT THINGS WILL GO MORE SMOOTHLY WITH ONLY GIRLS.

SEEMS LIKE ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME!

I THINK I'LL GO PLAY CATCH WITH KOIZUMI.

YASUMI WATAHASHI, I WON'T FORGET YOUR NAME!

HEY, SHE JUST TOLD YOU WHO MADE THAT SITE!

WHOA, USELESS TAGS EVERY-WHERE!

BUT, WAIT— WITH THESE APPS, YOU COULD'VE DONE A WAY BETTER JOB...

WOW, A TEXT-ONLY SITE! OLD-SCHOOL!

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO INVITE ME ALONG TO ANYTHING.

KO (TAP)

KO

KO

TO SUGGEST A GAME OF CATCH.

HUH?

QUICK THINKING THERE.

TAKE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO!

GEEZ, KYON'S TOTALLY WORTHLESS.

I JUST GOT THE FEELING IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.

WHAT DO I KNOW?

WHAT COULD IT BE, I WONDER.

I WONDER IF THAT'S WHAT A TIME TRAVELER WOULD CALL A FIXED EVENT.

I FELT A STRANGE COMPUL-SION TO DO SO, IN FACT.

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE. SO DID I.

ZA "!

ZA (STEP)

AND IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'RE SIMPLY BEING SUSPICIOUS.

NO, I DOUBT SHE KNOWS ANYTHING.

WHY DON'T YOU ASK ASAHINA-SAN?

IF WE START DOUBTING THINGS LIKE THIS, WE'LL JUST PLAY MORE AND MORE INTO THE TIME TRAVELERS' HANDS.

PAN (SMACK)

SHU (SHF)

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF PRIDE AS AN INHABITANT OF THE PRESENT.

AS A PAST-DWELLER, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THE TIME TRAVEL-ERS.

THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH BEING AN ESPER OR IN THE AGENCY.

ZASHI (CRUNCH)

I DON'T MIND BEING LOOKED DOWN ON.

OUR OPPONENTS HAVE A GREATER ORGANIZATION THAN US, AND WITH MORE POWER.

ZASHI

IT'S WEIRD TO HEAR YOU SOUNDING SO SINCERE.

SHU

WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN BACKING YOU UP AND YOU BACKING HER UP...

THERE'S NOTHING THE TWO OF YOU COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH.

THAT PARTICULAR ROLE IS WELL-SUITED TO YOU.

GROSS. KNOCK IF OFF

HYU (WHP)

REBELLION AGAINST A GREATER POWER IS A CLASSIC TALE, NO MATTER THE PLACE OR ERA.

BUT PERSONALLY, I LOATHE THE IDEA OF RESIGNING MYSELF TO SUCH DISDAIN.

IT'S OKAY.

I GET THE FEELING SHE'S ONLY DOING IT BECAUSE SHE LIKES TEACHING.

SHU (SHF)

HA HA

SO, IS YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN PROGRESSING WELL?

I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

ENOUGH ALREADY!

THAT'S GOOD.

JUST KEEP AT IT ALL THE WAY UNTIL COLLEGE ...

OPEN

?

HIRARI (FLUTTER)

OH? SUCH AS?

KASA (RUSTLE)

MIKURU フォルダ発見！

PAPER: I FOUND THE MIKURU FOLDER!

GU (CLENCH)

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

IT SEEMS YASUMI'S I.T. SKILLS ARE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

THIS BEAU-TIFUL, GOR-GEOUS PAGE!

BAN (BOOM)

SOS

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And of course we're always looking for new brigade members.

BEHOLD, KYON!

SOS

Welcome to the SOS Brigade home page
We will solve your problems. Consultation visits always welcome!

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And of course we're always looking for new brigade members!

THIS IS IS MORE EYE-CATCHING AND ATTENTION-GRABBING.

I FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING A LITTLE OVER-BOARD...

SO THIS IS THE SOS BRIGADE, HUH?

KACHI

KACHI

LOOK.

BUT THERE'S STUFF LIKE THIS TOO.

A MAIL FORM.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING FOR CONTENT?

THAT WAS ALL I COULD THINK OF.

THAT'S ALL?

ジャーン
JAAN (TADA)

KACHI- (CLICK)

ANYWAY, WE MIGHT AS WELL USE ALL THE RE-SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

SO OBNOX-IOUS

THAT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST CLIP ART AND FREE MUSIC...

IF YOU CLICK HERE...

I'M IMPRESSED THEY'VE GONE ALL THE WAY TO VERSION FIVE...

IT MUST APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE THAT CARE ABOUT THIS KIND OF GAME.

I GOT IT FROM THE COMPUTER CLUB.

IT'S THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE GAME WE PLAYED BEFORE... FREE, OF COURSE!

KACHI カチ

THE DAYS OF SAGITTARIUS FIVE...

I WANT SOMETHING MORE, LIKE, ARCADE-Y!

I BET THEY THINK LOSING TO SOMEONE LIKE HARUHI IS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THEM...

WHEW...

I WENT AHEAD AND ASKED THE COMPUTER CLUB TO DO MORE GAME DEVELOPMENT FOR US.

A MORE SOS BRIGADE-LIKE ONE, THIS TIME!

SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING SHE HAD TO DO.

SHE WENT HOME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

HEY, WHERE'D YASUMI GO?

SHE'S JUST SO CUUUTE!

I DON'T REALLY SEE IT, BUT OKAY.

SHE'S SO CUTE I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!

(SQUEAL)

HER VOICE, HER ATTITUDE, HER EXPRESSIONS-

FUWA (FLOAT)

LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T GET BORED RIGHT AWAY.

AHEM

SHE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE HIT THE BULL'S-EYE WITH MIKURU-CHAN.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

BOOKS ARE GREAT, RIGHT? "WIND, SAND AND STARS" WAS JUST AMAZING!

SHE EVEN GLOMMED ONTO NAGATO.

SHE MUST BE GOOD AT MAKING FRIENDS!

I LENT HER A BOOK.

SHE ASKED ME TO.

YEAH, IT HAD A TITLE LIKE SOME KIND OF SATELLITE.

THE SOS BRIGADE MUST NOT NEGLECT THE EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION!

ANYWAY, HAVING A NEW MEMBER JOIN US BODES WELL FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

BAAN (BOOM)

SQUEE!

THERE'S NO WAY THE SINGLE NEW MEMBER HARUHI CHOSE IS A NORMAL PERSON.

I JUST CAN'T SEE IT.

NONE OF THIS IS SITTING WELL WITH ME.

IT WAS ALMOST AN OPTIMISTIC FEELING...

THIS STRANGE TENSION IN MY CHEST THAT YASUMI ALWAYS INSPIRED ...

THIS VAGUE FEELING OF UNEASE ...

WELCOME HOME, SENPAI! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!

I'M HOME.

NO, SHE PROBABLY WASN'T ANYTHING SO OBVIOUS.

WAS SHE AN ENEMY OR AN ALLY?

...WAS LIKE HARUHI'S OR SASAKI'S.

BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHY.

BAN (BAM)

GEH!

WHEN YOU GOT RIGHT DOWN TO IT, YASUMI'S AURA...

PAA (BEAM)

I SHOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED!

...BUT THINGS TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED ...

I REALLY WANTED TO COME YESTER-DAY...

ZA (STEP)

WHA!? WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

WELL, I MEAN --

YOU LET HER IN!?

WHAT THE HECK!?

EXPECTED? HESITATED?

SHE'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL!

I WANT TO JUST PICK HER UP AND TAKE A NAP WITH HER!

I KNEW RIGHT AWAY SHE WAS YOUR LITTLE SISTER!

I THINK MY LITTLE SISTER MAY BE TOO NICE FOR HER OWN GOOD.

...SHE SAID SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND!

BA (WHIP)

TO YOUR HOUSE, I MEAN.

YUP, I JUST WANTED TO COME BY AT LEAST ONCE.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO.

DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS...

I GOT TO MEET YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, AND THIS CAT!

...BUT I'M GLAD I CAME!

I KNEW I WAS BEING PUSHY...

EH HE HE HE.

I CAN'T HAVE PETS ANYMORE, SO....

BUT I LOVE PLAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PETS WHEN I VISIT!

GOOD BOY!

WHAT A LOVELY CALICO! HE SEEMS PRETTY SMART TOO. I'M IMPRESSED.

EH HE HE HE...

THIS IS A TREASURE I'VE HAD SINCE I WAS LITTLE, SO I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU! RIGHT NOW.

SORRY!

HYO! (POP) ひょい

SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?

I REALLY LIKE THAT BARRETTE! CAN I HAVE IT?

SO I MIGHT WIND UP FLOATING BACK [redacted] SOME-TIME.

BUT IT MIGHT COME AROUND TO YOU EVEN-TUALLY.

WE'RE ALL LITTLE BOATS FLOATING ON THE RIVER OF THE WORLD.

OR MAYBE EVEN JUST THIS BARRETTE. EVENTUALLY, SOMEDAY...

...THERE'D BE SOME COOL CLUB...

I ALWAYS DREAMED THAT WHEN I WENT TO A NEW SCHOOL...

...AND I'D JOIN UP.

AND SOME KIND OF COINCIDENCE WOULD SUCK ME INTO IT...

THE NARRATORS OF EVERY GOOD STORY ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN.

THAT I'D KEEP QUIET AND THEY'D APPROACH ME.

ISN'T THAT HOW IT IS?

THAT'S THE KIND OF PROTAGONIST I WANTED TO BE.

AND THE CLUB WOULD BE FULL OF FASCI-NATING STUDENTS ...

...AND I'D WIND UP GETTING CLOSE TO ONE OF THEM...

SU (SHF)

...

JUST KIDDING!

YASUMI WATA-HASHI ...

ARE YOU...

SORRY FOR INTRUDING!

I WON'T COME AGAIN.

BUT I'M TOTALLY SATISFIED NOW.

SORRY!

ACTUALLY I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR ROOM.

PAA (BEAM)

DON'T HATE ME...

...OKAY, SENPAI?

SUPAAN (SHWAAP)

KYON-KUN...

...WHO WAS THAT?

BYE BYE BYE!

OKAY, MAY WE MEET AGAIN!

OR MADE IT UP MYSELF, SOMETIME IN THE PAST...

IT WAS LIKE I'D HEARD THIS STORY BEFORE SOMEWHERE...

—YOU MERELY REFER TO PREDETERMINED EVENTS THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AS COINCIDENCE

—EVERYTHING IS PRE-DETERMINED.

—NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS COINCIDENCE.

MAYBE IT WAS A LINE FROM A BOOK I'D BORROWED FROM NAGATO.

NO...

WHO WAS IT WHO'D SAID THAT? KOIZUMI?

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VIII : END

β—10

HEY, KYON.

ABOUT YUKI...

DO YOU THINK MAYBE IT WOULD BE GOOD TO FORCE HER TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?

TA (TAP)

TA

IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT TO HAPPEN ON A BIGGER SCALE...

I'M JUST WORRIED.

AND NOT JUST ABOUT YUKI...

The Surprise of Haruhi Suzumiya IX

I'M GOING TO YUKI'S WITH MIKURU.

YOU STAY IN THE CLUB ROOM.

PI (JAB)

WHAT? WHY?

I WON'T EVEN GET ANY OF ASAHINA-SAN'S TEA.

NEW.

CLUB.

MEM-BERS.

GOT IT!?

THEY MIGHT COME.

SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PLAY BACKUP.

PLUS, YOU'RE TOTALLY USELESS WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING CARE OF YUKI.

MAN, WHAT A TER-RIBLE THING TO HEAR.

PERFECT TIMING.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT KUYOH.

HM?

HEY, TANI-GUCHI.

I GUESS I'LL BE MINDING THE CLUB ROOM TODAY.

C'MON, DON'T SAY THAT.

SOME-THING WAS WRONG WITH ME BACK THEN.

KYON, BUDDY.

I REALLY DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT THAT.

GABAA (TACKLE)

DON'T OPEN OLD WOUNDS, MAN...

YOU AT LEAST WENT ON DATES, RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF THINGS DID YOU DO WITH HER AFTER CHRIST-MAS?

AT FIRST I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE REALLY WAS...

I MEAN, SHE WAS HOT, SO.

YOU SAID SHE WAS THE ONE WHO AP-PROACHED YOU, RIGHT?

YEAH, IT WAS JUST BEFORE CHRIST-MAS.

ALTHOUGH THAT EERIE AURA IS STILL PRETTY OFF-PUTTING.

HOT? THINKING BACK, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

YOU KNOW, THE BASICS.

MOV-IES... FOOD ...

I GUESS SHE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE.

THE OLD YEAR TURNED INTO THE NEW YEAR.

AND PRETTY SOON I WAS THE ONE INVITING HER OUT.

SOMETIMES SHE WOULD SUGGEST PLACES TO GO TO.

I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE WOULD REALLY INITIATE CONVER-SATION.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

WHICH I THOUGHT WAS WEIRD.

SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO FAST FOOD PLACES.

HUH?

ALL ON HER OWN? REALLY?

LIKE SHE'D BRING STUFF UP.

SURE, SHE WAS QUIET, BUT SOMETIMES IT WAS LIKE A SWITCH WAS FLIPPED AND SHE'D START TALKING.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

ANOTHER CAT-LOVER?

I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA FALL ASLEEP.

SHE NSISTED THAT CATS WERE MORE ADVANCED L FE-FORMS THAN HUMANS AND WENT ON AND ON...

SHE SAID SHE WANTED A CAT.

I MEAN, WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THAT?

ON THE SCALE OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS!?

SHE LIKED THE WEIRDEST, MOST OBSCURE TOPICS TOO.

LIKE HUMAN EVOLUTION AND STUFF...

SO THAT'S REALLY ALL YOU CARE ABOUT, HUH?

AND A HOTTIE TO BOOT!

HELL YEAH. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A GIRL HAD EVER HIT ON ME.

BUT YOU KEPT GOING OUT WITH HER ANY-WAY?

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, SHE WAS GONE! HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE!

OUCH.

...AND SHE JUST SAYS, "I WAS MIS-TAK-EN!"

I RUSHED TO MEET HER AT THE PROM-ISED TIME...

AND THEN OUR RELATION-SHIP WAS OVER IN A FLASH.

KUYOH SUOH.

SHE'S ACTUALLY QUITE FOOLISH, IN A WAY.

AND THIS IS JUST MY IMAGI-NATION RUN-NING WILD...

AND RIGHT BEFORE VALEN-TINE'S DAY TOO.

I'VE BEEN DUMPED!

IT WAS AROUND WHEN KOIZUMI AND I HAD DUG HOLES ALL OVER THAT MOUNTAIN ...

...AND HAD OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH KYOKO TACHIBANA AND FUJIWARA.

SO YOU WERE THE ONE HANGING OUT WITH HER ALL THAT TIME.

?

PON (PAT)

PERO

PERO

PERO (CLICK)

PERO

PERO

WHAT THE HECK KINDA WAY TO EAT IS THAT!?

IF KUYOH HAD MADE CONTACT WITH ME BEFORE HARUHI'S CHRISTMAS PARTY...

...THINGS COULD'VE GOTTEN REALLY CRAZY.

GROSS, MAN.

HUH?

HAVE YOU TAKEN ONE TOO MANY ROUND-HOUSE KICKS FROM HARUHI OR SOME-THING?

GA! (GRAB)

KIRA

KIRA

KIRA (SPARKLE)

YOU'RE ACTU-ALLY AN AMAZING GUY...

TANI-GUCHI.

WHAP

PA (WHAP)

ANYWAY...

...SAME GOES FOR YOU, PAL.

YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT, MAN.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP BABYSITTING SUZUMIYA UNTIL GRADUATION.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR HER.

YOU'RE SERIOUS BUSINESS, KYON.

YOU LASTED A WHOLE YEAR IN THAT CRAZY CLUB.

TA (TMP)

HARUHI, WHO IS LIKE UNTO A GOD.

I'M NOT REALLY PLANNING TO GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE AS HER...

...BUT I WONDER WHAT HARUHI'S THINKING.

BABY-SITTING, HUH.

KO (CLICK)

KO

HM?

KO

HUH?

AH, SEN-PAI!?

IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT MIXED-UP!

UH...

ARE YOU A FRESH-MAN?

THAT'S NOT THE MISTAKEN PART...

SA JA JA JA

THIS IS THE SOS BRIGADE, RIGHT!?

WAIT, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

HEE-HEE, THAT'S OKAY.

THIS ISN'T THAT BIG A MISTAKE!

I JUST GOT OFF TRACK!

YOU CAN REMEM-BER MEETING ME OR FORGET ME, EITHER WAY'S FINE.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MEETING YOU, RIGHT?

!?

I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY YOU WON'T, AFTER ALL!

KYA HA!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH!

THESE THINGS HAPPEN, Y'KNOW?

JUST PROMISE ME THAT, OKAY?

DA

DA

DA

DA (DASH)

DA

UMM...

BUT IF SOMETHING WEIRD TRIES TO STOP YOU, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO FREAK OUT OR BE SWAYED BY EMOTION, OKAY?

UH...

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

BYE!

A FLOWER?

DID THAT GIRL LEAVE IT HERE?

WHO... WAS THAT?

BATAN (SLAM)

DID I JUST LET HER ESCAPE?

HA (GASP)

COULD SHE SERIOUSLY HAVE BEEN A PROSPECTIVE BRIGADE MEMBER?

STILL, THAT PUSHINESS...

...SHE REMINDS ME OF A CERTAIN SOMEONE.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN? WHEN? WHERE?

NO, IT CAN'T BE.

KYON.

FUJIWARA-KUN WANTS US TO MEET IN FRONT OF THE STATION AGAIN TOMORROW.

THAT NIGHT ...

IT'S FINALLY HAPPEN-ING...

IT'S UNKNOWN WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO ELIMINATE ME...

...OR JUST TRY TO USE ME.

HE SEEMS SERI-OUS.

HE MEANS TO FINISH THINGS THIS TIME.

BUT ONE THING'S CERTAIN.

AND THAT'S YOU.

You and your decisions are the key to every-thing.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

WHATEVER'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD, NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN DO MUCH TO CHANGE IT.

What we can change is the future.

WE HERE IN THE PRESENT DON'T HAVE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.

LET'S LET THE FUTURE WORK ITSELF OUT, OKAY?

But this world is our present.

From their perspective, we're people from the past.

After all...

I'm sure you'll figure something out.

Kyon.

That's our biggest advantage against them.

And that's you.

...THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON BOTH SUZUMIYA-SAN AND I CHOSE.

...BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD TAKE IT THIS FAR.

HEH... YOUR THICK-HEADED-NESS HAS ALWAYS GIVEN ME FITS ...

SO THERE MUST BE SOME REASON, RIGHT?

UNLIKE HARUHI, YOU'RE TOTALLY SELF-AWARE.

SASAKI.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?

Here, Suzumiya-san and I are the house.

Do you see?

LET'S SPEAK HYPO-THET-ICALLY.

LET'S SAY YOU'VE BOUGHT A LOTTERY TICKET.

Hiru your ticket matches ...

Hiru surprisingly, the numbers Suzumiya-san and I chose at random are the same, save for the last two digits.

BUT YOU DON'T YET KNOW WHAT THE LAST TWO DIGITS YOU'RE HOLDING ARE.

THEY HAVE TO BE CHOSEN.

By your power and no [redacted] else's.

YOU'RE SO HONEST, KYON.

THAT'S A VERY ANNOYED SILENCE I'M HEARING.

.....

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

ALL RIGHT, SASAKI.

LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.

GO AHEAD AND PUSH THE DOWN-TRIM AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

MY TRUST IN YOU IS DEEPER THAN THE CRUSHING DEPTHS ON A NEWLY-LAUNCHED SUBMARINE.

THESE GUYS MIGHT DO ANYTHING.

TEE HEE HEE HEE!

AND I'D FELT UNEASY EVER SINCE MEETING THOSE THREE.

YOU'D THINK THE USUAL SCURRYING AROUND WOULD'VE ENSUED ...

...BUT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, WHICH WAS EVEN MORE BAFFLING.

α—11

THE PAST WEEK HAD BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY BUSY.

HARUHI'S EXAMINATIONS, MEETING YASUMI ...

IT WAS ALREADY FRIDAY...

PERHAPS UNBEKNOWNST TO ME, THEY WERE STRUGGLING WITH NAGATO, KOIZUMI, OR ASAHINA-SAN.

THEY WERE ALL UNITED IN THEIR GOAL OF PRESERVING HARUHI'S PEACEFUL LIFE, AFTER ALL.

STILL ...

WOULD ASAHINA-SAN..? NAH..

IT WAS STRANGE THEY HADN'T SAID ANYTHING TO ME.

KACHA (KACHIK)

やだはし やすみ

BWUH?

AFTER ALL THIS, WAS I STILL BEING TREATED LIKE AN OUTSIDER?

ENVELOPE: YASUMI WATAHASHI

HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS HAP-PENED TO ME SO FAR?

THINK BACK, NOW...

BA (WHAP)

KYORO キョロ

KYORO (GLANCE) キョロ

SO FAR THESE NOTES HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN PORTALS TO ROMANTIC BLISS...

ASAKURA, ASAHINA THE ELDER...

THINK BACK!

HAS SPRINGTIME FINALLY COME FOR ME...?

IS THIS TRULY A LOVE LETTER?

SENPAAAI! SENPAI!

...SHE SEEMED TOTALLY HARM-LESS, SO...

BUT MAYBE THIS TIME...

FLOWERS!

午後六時　部室で
会いましょう。
来てください。ね…！

NOTE: I'LL MEET YOU IN THE CLUB ROOM AT 6 PM. PLEASE COME, OKAY?

NOTHING ABNORMAL HERE.

KASA (RUSTLE)

HAH, WHAT AM I, STUPID?

SFX: PURU (TREMBLE) PURU

...BUT, YEAH, IT'S SUSPICIOUS.

...IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

YOUR FOREHEAD'S BEEN WRINKLED ALL MORNING.

IF SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU, BRING IT TO ME, YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF!

SO, WHAT TO DO?

A LITTLE EXTRA CAUTION NEVER HURTS.

WHAT A STUPID QUES-TION.

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHAT, FOR MODERN LIT?

I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT THE QUESTION-WRITER'S ANSWER WOULD BE.

OKAY.

SAY YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM THAT YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW TO AP-PROACH.

...IN THIS CASE THE WRITER AND THE QUESTION-ASKER ARE THE SAME.

NO, I MEAN ...

...IS INSIDE THEM ALONE, SO THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING.

WHATEVER A WRITER WAS THINKING...

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...

BAN (WHAM)

...IS JUST ASK WHO-EVER WROTE IT!

WELL, THEN IT'S SIMPLE.

WAIT...

WHICH CLASS WAS SHE IN, AGAIN?

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN BAD MANNERS TO SHOW UP EARLY DESPITE THE NOTE'S INSTRUCTION TO COME AT SIX O'CLOCK...

...NEVER-THELESS...

MMM... SHE'S TOTALLY RIGHT.

I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HER SMALL SIZE WOULD'VE MADE HER WEIRDLY EASIER TO SPOT, BUT...

SHE'S NOT HERE?

THAT'S WEIRD.

PA (BEAM)

AH, KYON-KUN!

HELLO!

AFTER SCHOOL.

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING FOR?

...AND NAGATO.

HARUHI!... ASAHINA-SAN...

UMMM.

SHE'S NOT COMING TODAY.

SHE SAID SHE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING THAT WAS DESPERATELY IMPORTANT FOR HER LIFE AND WENT HOME.

OH...

UH... WHERE'S THE NEW GIRL?

AHHHHH!!

SO, SO CUTE ...!

UH-HUH.

SHE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES, LIKE A LITTLE BABY ANIMAL -

AWW...

SHE BOWED OVER AND OVER AND SEEMED VERY, VERY SORRY...

I DON'T GET WHAT THIS MYSTERY GIRL IS PLAYING AT.

WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO MEET ME HERE AT SIX?

YAY YAY YAY!

WHAT THE HECK?

"I'M SO SORRY, YOU MADE ME A FULL BRIGADE MEMBER, YET..." SHE SAID. SHE WAS ALMOST CRYING.

ONLY THAT SHE WAS GOING TO SKIP CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY.

HARUH!.

DID YOU HEAR ANY-THING?

Nagato.

Who is Yasumi Watahashi?

SIX O'CLOCK... WHERE'S SHE GOING TO BE UNTIL THEN?

WHAT IS SHE PLANNING TO DO?

With a class number, and a year.

No one? She has to be somebody.

She is no one.

Oh, right.

Doesn't exist?

So that means, um...

No student with that name exists in this school.

SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY WEIRD, I GUESS.

GOOD GRIEF. SO SHE IS GOING TO BE HARD TO DEAL WITH.

That is a logical conclusion.

So it's an alias.

Someone's posing as a North High student and sneaking in just for after-school activities.

No.

Time travelers? Espers?

No.

Aliens?

So who's controlling her?

NAGATO OFFERING AN ELABORATION? THAT'S RARE.

YASUMI-CHAN BROUGHT IT IN.

So she's just randomly posing as a North High student?

HEY.

WHERE'D THIS FLOWER COME FROM?

Nor is she from another world.

WHAT?

I CANNOT SAY ANY-THING.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT SUCH IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.

NOT RIGHT NOW.

RE-FUS-ING ME?

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

NAGATO REFUS-ING?

SHE SAID IT WAS REALLY RARE, SO WE SHOULD KEEP IT IN THE CLUB ROOM

LIKE A TREASURE

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME NAGATO HAS EX-PRESSED RESERVES LIKE "FOR NOW."

OPERATING IN RESTRICTED SPACE, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ACTING IN IGNORANCE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE.

...THAT LETTER .....

DEPEND-ING ON TIME AND CIRCUM-STANCES ...

THE REASONING THAT IT WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER PROBABILITY OF A FAVORABLE OUTCOME IS MINE.

THIS— SURELY THIS FORE-TELLS CALAM-ITY.

WHO DECIDED THAT?

AND I'M THE IGNORANT ONE. HUH?

ON THE CONTRARY— IT CAN BE INFERRED THAT SHE WISHES TO BE OF USE TO YOU.

SHE MEANS YOU NO HARM.

YOU MAY GO.

TRUTH IS, I'D GUESSED AS MUCH MYSELF.

I CAN'T HELP BUT GROAN.

SHE WAS THE PLATONIC IDEAL. SO WHAT WAS SUSPICIOUS ABOUT HER?

WHO WOULDN'T WANT A NEW CLUB MEMBER LIKE THIS?

THIS WAS A YOUTHFUL GIRL WHO'D PASSED HARUHI'S UNREASONABLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

WAS MY CURRENT IGNORANCE BECAUSE SOMEONE WAS WITHHOLDING THOSE ANSWERS FROM ME?

OR HAD I ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A HINT?

MAYBE I CAN GET SOME ANSWERS IF I DO WHAT THE LETTER SAYS.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IX : END

CLIP: TEA

α—11

MAYBE FOR YASUMI-CHAN THIS FLOWER'S REALLY INTEREST-ING.

WELL... I AM THE ONE WHO TOLD HER TO BRING SOMETHING INTERESTING.

A FLOWER?

MY BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAM DIDN'T LIE! LOOKS LIKE IT REALLY IDENTIFIED HER DISTIN-GUISHING ATTRI-BUTES!

INDEED! SUCH DECISIVE FOLLOW-UP MEANS THAT SHE'S GOT THE HEART OF A TRUE BRIGADE MEMBER.

FU!!

BAN (WHAM)

...

C'MON, KYON, IT'S TIME TO GO!

HURRY UP!

FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLOWER SHE'D LEFT AT LUNCH.

THE PAST FEW DAYS, MY STRANGE-HAPPENINGS SENSOR HAD BEEN PINGING CONSTANTLY.

I REALLY DON'T THINK HARUHI IS EXACTLY WELCOMING YASUMI WITH OPEN ARMS.

DID HARUHI REALLY LIKE THE FLOWER YASUMI HAD LEFT THERE?

I DOUBTED IT.

THE AN-SWER WAS NO.

IN A WORD, SHE WAS CONFUSED.

SO DID SHE ACTUALLY FIND YASUMI'S INTRODUC-TION TO THE CLUB TO BE AN UNPLEASANT DEVELOP-MENT?

TRUTH-FULLY, I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

CALL IT A SORT OF INDISTINCT MYSTERY.

HARUHI'S EVALUA-TION OF YASUMI WAS A COMPLI-CATED ONE.

AND SHE HAD YET TO COME UP WITH A SATIS-FACTORY ANSWER.

KOI-ZUMI.

THAT FLOWER WASN'T WOLFSBANE, RIGHT?

WHEN'D YOU TAKE THAT PICTURE?

HOPE-FULLY MY GUESS IS WRONG.

AT A GLANCE, IT LOOKED LIKE A VARIETY OF ORCHID.

I WAS CERTAINLY A BIT INTERESTED IN IT, THOUGH.

PAKA (FLIP)

NO, NO, IT'S NOT A POI-SONOUS FLOWER.

TWO YEARS... THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ASAHINA-SAN A YEAR FROM NOW?

PERHAPS SHE HAD A SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR A JUNIOR TWO YEARS UNDER HER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ASAHINA-SAN SEEMS TO ADORE YASUMI.

COME TO THINK OF IT, NEITHER HARUHI NOR I WERE EXACTLY MODEL UNDER-CLASSMEN.

ぎゅっ。 GYU (HUG)

...CRAP.

WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE TIME TRAV-ELERS' TOOL THEN?

WOULD ANOTHER TEA-SERVING MAID ARRIVE? AND FROM THE FUTURE, AGAIN?

!!!

I JUST REMEMBERED I BORROWED A DIRTY MAGAZINE FROM TANIGUCHI.

I LEFT SOMETHING IN THE CLASSROOM.

OH, OOPS.

HEH HEH HEH

IT'S, LIKE, A SUPER-VALUABLE RAG TOO.

IF ANYBODY FINDS IT, I'LL BE IN TROUBLE.

DON'T TALK ABOUT DIRTY BOOKS IN FRONT OF MAIDENS LIKE US!

DA (DASH)

STUPID KYON!

BYE!

I'M HEADING BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UP.

I SHOULD'VE COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE.

TA (TMP)

BUT NO, THIS IS GOOD.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF HARUHI HAD COME WITH ME.

TA

ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS SENTI-MENTALITY.

IT'S NOT LIKE ME.

TA

TA

ESPECIALLY WITH THIS IMPORTANT (?) MEETING COMING UP.

BAN (BANG)

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

IT'S SIX O'CLOCK, YASUMI WATA-HASHI!

I KNEW YOU'D COME.

I BELIEVED IT— THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING, SENPAI.

SHE'D MADE IT THROUGH ALL OF HARUHI'S TESTS.

NO NORMAL HUMAN COULD POS-SIBLY HAVE DONE THAT.

AND I WANT TO BELIEVE IN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.

I'LL TAKE ALL MY ANSWERS UP FRONT, THANKS.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

BUT WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

KO

KO (CLACK)

KO

KO

KO

...YOU DON'T KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

KON (KNOCK)

KON

KON

KON

KNOCKING!? ANOTHER VISITOR!?

KON

KON

HOW DID SHE KNOW SOMEONE WAS COMING AFTER ME?

..WHAT IS SHE?

OR DID SHE CALL THEM HERE TOO...!?

KON

KON

β—11
FRI-DAY...
CHUN (CHIRP)
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE WEEKEND'S APPROACH.
CHUN
BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER SCHOOL MAY DECIDE BOTH MY FATE AND THE SOS BRIGADE'S.
URGH...
A RENDEZ-VOUS WITH SASAKI AND HER ROTTEN FRIENDS AWAITED ME.
WAKE UP!
I WOULD NEED TO BE MORE AWAKE, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH KUYOH SUOH.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAD THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL FORCED NAGATO INTO BED REST?

I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH FUJIWARA.

WHY DID THAT TIME TRAVELER COME HERE?

DID THE FAKE ESPER REALLY WANT TO INSTALL SASAKI AS THE TRUE GOD...?

I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH KYOKO TACHIBANA.

I DON'T KNOW.

SOMETHING HUGE, FAR LARGER THAN BEFORE.

BUT SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.

AFTER SCHOOL, AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS POINT.

HEY.

YOU SHOWED UP LIKE YOU PROMISED.

THANKS.

SASAKI.

TACHIBANA, AND THE TIME TRAVELER.

KUYOH'S NOT HERE.

I COULDN'T CONTACT HER.

BUT IF SHE'S NEEDED, SHE'LL APPEAR.

THAT SO?

SEEMS KINDA HALF-BAKED.

SHE'LL COME... SHE WILL.
WHETHER OR NOT ANYONE WANTS HER TO.
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WISH I NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH HER AGAIN.
PERA
PERA
MUST BE NICE TO HAVE THAT KIND OF FREEDOM.
EARTH DOESN'T BELONG TO ALIENS...
PERA (BLAB)
PERA
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? HIS EXPRES-SION'S SO STIFF.
UH, ER...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.
I'VE ARRANGED FOR A TAXI.
SHALL WE DEPART?

WHERE TO?

NORTH PREFECTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

THERE'S NO NEED TO TURN SUCH A TRIVIALITY INTO AN ADVENTURE.

THIS TOO IS A FIXED EVENT.

HMPH.

I JUST GOT HERE

WE'RE JUST GOING RIGHT BACK?

SHUT UP.

...

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'VE BEEN RATHER ABUSED BY THE WHIMS OF TIME TRAVELERS, HAVEN'T YOU?

ULULU

UU

UUUU CVRMM

A FIXED EVENT, EH? SO THE FOUR OF US GETTING IN A TAXI AND GOING TO NORTH HIGH IS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL FACT?

UH-HUH...

MY KID'S JUST STARTED SIXTH GRADE.

HE'S ALREADY STUDYING CONSTANTLY!

SO, YOU GUYS IN HIGH SCHOOL? NICE TO BE YOUNG!

FOR NOW WE'VE HIRED A NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLER TO COME AND TUTOR HIM...

WE'VE TRIED SENDING HIM TO CRAM SCHOOL, BUT HE STOPPED GOING, SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT THE LEVEL BEING TOO LOW.

HE'S REALLY INTO SCIENCE AND CHEMISTRY, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THESE COMPLICATED THINGS...

LIKE DOODLES, ALMOST.

THE TUTOR KINDA TAKES A HANDS-OFF APPROACH, AND I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

IF HE'S GOT A NOTEBOOK HE'S ALWAYS WRITING FIGURES AND EQUATIONS INTO IT...

HAW HAW HAW!

BUT HIS SCHOOL GRADES JUST WON'T GO UP.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A CHATTY CABBIE.

ANYWAY, I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THE CAB-DRIVER'S STORY BEFORE...

NOT THAT IT MATTERS. BUT..

AND UNLIKE KOIZUMI'S AGENCY, HER FINANCIAL SITUATION MIGHT NOT BE ESPECIALLY ROSY.

OH, IS THAT SO?

TAXI

UNLIKE KOIZUMI, SHE PROBABLY HAD TO PAY FOR THE CAB OUT OF HER OWN POCKET.

WE JUST HAVE TO CONFIRM SOMETHING.

IT'S NOT A TRAP.

IS THIS SOME KIND OF TRAP?

THOSE ARE PERFECTLY REASONABLE QUESTIONS, FUJIWARA-KUN, BUT...

BUT OF COURSE THAT POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE THERE...

I JUST KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

THIS IS BOTH THE PLAN AND THE RESULT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS EITHER.

BUT I'LL BET YOU'RE NOT USED TO RIDING AROUND IN PETROLEUM-BASED INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE-POWERED VEHICLES LIKE THIS ONE, ARE YOU?

I CAN ONLY GUESS AT WHAT YOUR FUTURE WORLD IS LIKE.

I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF YOU JUST DON'T LIKE RIDING IN CARS VERY MUCH.

THERE ARE SIMPLY ADVANCED HOPES I HAVE FOR THE FUTURE, THAT'S ALL.

NOTHING AT ALL.

WHAT OF IT?

HOPE FOR WHAT YOU LIKE.

WISH FOR WHAT YOU LIKE.

I HOPE THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN SOLVED IN THE FUTURE...

THIS WORLD IS BESET BY ALL SORTS OF PROB-LEMS.

BEYOND THAT...HEH, I SUPPOSE IT'S CLASSIFIED.

THAT HOPE OF YOURS MADE THE FUTURE...

...ALONG WITH YOUR RECKLESSLY MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.

UU (VRRM)

BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

THIS IS A FIXED EVENT.

UU

CLASSIFIED INFOR-MATION... I DON'T THINK SO.

IF YOU WERE OTHERWISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE QUALIFIED TO ACT AS OUR INSTRUMENT.

IMPRES-SIVE.

U

ALL YOU KNOW IS THAT IT'S BEEN SPECIFIED IN ADVANCE THAT YOU HAVE TO GO TO NORTH HIGH.

SO HOW COULD YOU EVEN ANSWER?

BUT IT'S NOT OUR HABIT TO OPPOSE FIXED EVENTS, SO.....

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.

YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY SUPERFLUOUS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "INSTRUMENT"?

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THAT.

GRR...

...HEY, FUJIWARA.

SO WE CALLED YOU ALONG TOO.

JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY YOUR ROLE AS THE BYSTANDER.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE THE FUTURE YOU'RE FROM?

DOODLING ON ONE PAGE OF A FLIPBOOK ANIMATION WON'T CHANGE THE ENDING.

YOU KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?

IF YOU SHOOT OFF YOUR MOUTH ANY MORE...

...
"PROHIBITION" WON'T BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU.

JUST SHUT UP, YOU RELIC.

HIS COLD VOICE MADE ME SHIVER.

GUESS I STEPPED ON ONE OF HIS LAND MINES.

RURURU (BRMMM)

TAXI

FUJIWARA WAS SERIOUS.

WHAT...

C'MON, LET'S GO.

CHA (CHAK)

IF SO...

WHAT'S THIS?

...JUST WHAT KIND OF GRAFFITI WAS THIS GUY GOING TO LEAVE ON THE PAST?

HA (GASP)

CLOSED SPACE!?

THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF HARUHI'S...

BAN (BAM)

THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR WORLD.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION NOW?

SASAKI!?

AND THE TAXI...

BA (WHIP)

I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

WE STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED AT OUR FINAL DESTINATION.

...A TRAP!

YOUR REALITY, YOUR SENSE OF HOW THE WORLD WORKS—SUCH THINGS DO NOT APPLY HERE.

SHE'S THE REASON WE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING YOU ALL THE WAY HERE.

I HAVE TO THANK SASAKI.

WE'LL NEED HER TO WORK FOR US AFTER THIS.

OF COURSE ...

ONCE THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF, YOU'LL ALL BE FREE TO GO.

AND THEN YOU CAN FLIRT WITH HER ALL YOU WANT.

I DOUBT SHE KNOWS SHE WAS BEING MANIPULATED INTO DOING THAT.

TA (DASH)

FUJIWARA, YOU BETTER APPRECIATE MY SELF-CONTROL.

LET'S GO, SHALL WE?

WOULD YOU BE SATISFIED IF I SAID THANK YOU?

β=12

TO THAT SHABBY LITTLE ROOM YOU CALL YOUR HOME BASE.

WITHIN IT EXISTS THE GATEWAY TO EVERY POSSIBILITY.

IT'S THE KEY TO THE FUTURE, A PLACE WHERE EACH POWER HAS MET, COMBINED, AND INFLUENCED EACH OTHER.

THE SOURCE OF EVERYTHING IS IN THAT ROOM.

I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR AN ARCHAIC HUMAN LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

THE PROCESSES OF BOTH PROGRESS AND STAGNATION ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY EXTANT, THERE.

KO (CLACK)

OR PERHAPS YOU COULD CALL IT A WEDGE.

KO

YEAH, I DON'T GET IT.

DON'T WANT TO EITHER.

KO

WHA... HUH?

NO, I...

KO

KO

TACHIBANA.

YOU KNEW THIS, AND YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?

THAT ROOM HAD LONG-SINCE BECOME ITS OWN SPECIAL DIMENSION.

WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS AND POWERS THAT HAD MET, CLASHED, AND ANNIHILATED EACH OTHER THERE, IT MIGHT EVEN BE NORMAL, IN A WAY.

LIKE IT HAD REACHED A SATURATION POINT.

THIS IS FUJIWARA'S SCENARIO... WITH KUYOH BACKING HIM UP.

KYOKO TACHIBANA DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE.

SHALL WE GO, THEN?

AND SETTLE ALL OF THIS.

TO (TAP)

HEY, FUJIWARA ...

THERE'S SOME-ONE...

...INSIDE!

KO (KNOCK)

KON

KON (KNOCK)

KON

KON

KON

KON

α—12

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

OPEN IT...!?

THE DOOR THAT'S SO FAMILIAR FEELS LIKE PANDORA'S BOX.

KON

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA X : END

KON

KON

KON

WHO'S ON THE OTHER SIDE...?

SOMEONE'S KNOCKING HARD ON THE DOOR.

CHA (CHK)

KO (CLACK)

DOES SHE KNOW WHO'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR...?

WHAT'S WITH HER?

YASUMI WATAHASHI SEEMS STRANGELY SATISFIED.

KO

β—13

NO, WHO ARE YOU...?

WHO ARE YOU!?

α—13

STRANGE.

THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SUFFUSED WITH THE SAME FAINT LIGHT THAT PERMEATED ALL CLOSED SPACE.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?

SO WHY WAS THE SUN PUTTING ON SUCH A GRAND DISPLAY OF A SUNSET?

WHERE'S KUYOH, HE WANTS TO KNOW?

WAS THIS FUJIWARA AND TACHI-BANA'S PLAN?

AND WHO ARE THESE TWO ...?

WHERE IS KUYOH SUOH?

WHO ARE YOU?

IT'S ME! IT'S UNMISTAKABLY ANOTHER ME!

JUST MY OWN SELF, FROM EXACTLY THIS MOMENT.

NOT FROM THE PAST, OR THE FUTURE.

I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF "ME."

WHO IS THIS?

IT'S ME, MYSELF.

SULL (SHE)

...WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

THE OTHER ME LOOKS JUST AS CONFUSED AS I AM.

HE'S PROBABLY WONDER-ING...

SENPAI!

WHO... ARE YOU?

HEE HEE.

I AM WATA-HASHI.

FUWA (LIFT)

I DON'T KNOW EITHER. BUT WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

THIS IS EARTH! NOT SOME PLAYGROUND FOR ALIENS!

HOW ABSURD... HA-HA...

YUKI, IT'S ME. EVERY-BODY'S HERE TO CHECK IN ON YOU.

DEFINE "DATA OVERMIND" ANSWER.

I NOW PROCLAIM THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION OPEN!

THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE TO SIMPLY PROVE OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

IT'S CALLED ROOIBOS TEA!

NO STUDENT WITH THAT NAME EXISTS IN THIS SCHOOL.

I AM WATAHASH!

MY DIRECTIVES PREVENT ANY DEVIATION.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? KOIZUMI-SAN CREATED THE AGENCY FROM THE GROUND UP.

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!

LISTEN, KYON. THIS STORY BELONGS TO YOU AND ME.

I FOUND THE MIKURU FOLDER!

IT WOULD BE FUNDA-MENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY HUMAN.

GOING TO SLEEP FOR A BIT.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON BOTH SUZUMIYA-SAN AND I CHOSE. AND THAT'S YOU.

AH...
WHAT IS THIS...?
TWO VERSIONS OF MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST

AND NOW BOTH OF THEM WERE PERFECTLY ALIGNED IN MY HEAD.

WHAT WAS THIS?

THE ONLY THING I COULD CONCLUDE WAS THAT I MYSELF HAD SPLIT AND EXPERIENCED THE SAME TIMELINE TWICE.

SHOULDN'T I HAVE BEEN MORE CONFUSED?

I UNDERSTOOD SO WELL THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.

—OF THE SAME TIME, IN THE SAME WORLD—

YASUMI WATA-HASHI!

WHAT ARE YOU!?

—THEY'RE BOTH YOU, KYON. YOU JUST HAVE TWO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT HISTORIES.

?

—NOT MICRO-CAMERA

WHERE DID THEY GO?

IN THE CASE OF "ME," I UNDERSTOOD IMMEDIATELY.

THEY'RE GONE.

THE OTHER ME AND YASUMI WATAHASHI HAVE BOTH VANISHED.

BA (WHIP)

WAS THAT- YASUMI?

BOTH ME AND THE OTHER "ME" HAD BEEN FUSED INTO ONE.

WE'D ORIGINALLY BEEN ONE INDIVIDUAL, BUT SOMETHING HAD CAUSED US TO SPLIT.

FUSION.

THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT!

A NON-STANDARD ABNORMALITY THAT'S NOT ON THE SCHEDULE?

WHO CALLED HER HERE?

IT CAN'T BE...WAS THERE SOMEONE WHO RELEASED THE PROHIBITION AHEAD OF ME...?

WHO COULD POSSIBLY ...?

DEFYING THE CHAIN OF FIXED EVENTS ...?

TA (DASH)

TA

WHAT'S THAT!?

THUNDER?

GA (KRAK)

GA

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...?

THE SKY WAS SWIRLING.

THE FAINTLY GLOWING CREAM-COLORED CANOPY WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN ANGRY BLUE-GRAY SWIRL...

.. COLORS INTERTWINING LIKE COLLIDING GALAXIES IN A BIZARRE DISPLAY.

AND IT WASN'T JUST THE SKY.

HERE AND THERE, PALE LIGHT AND DARK GRAY TENDRILS WRIGGLED, AS THOUGH FIGHTING FOR CONTROL.

BUT WHAT WAS THAT OTHER COLOR?

I COULD TELL THAT THIS WAS STILL THE PALELY-COLORED WORLD

I WAS STILL INSIDE THE CLOSED SPACE THAT SASAKI CREATED

THE GRASS IN THE COURTYARD, THE LEAFED-OUT CHERRY TREES

EVERYTHING WAS BEING DROWNED OUT IN THE TWO COLORS

HARUHI AND SASAKI WERE STRUGGLING WITH EACH OTHER, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

IT WAS HARUHI'S CLOSED SPACE.

PAST AND FUTURE, AND EVEN THE PRESENT, DO NOT EXIST HERE.

MATTER.

PAR-TICLES.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING.

THE DIVISION POINT OF EVERY POSSIBLE OUTCOME.

WAVES, AND WILL. CONSCIOUS-NESS OF REALITY.

THE FUTURE BECOMES THE PAST, AND THE PAST, THE PRESENT...

IT REMINDS ME OF THE DATA JURISDICTION SPACE THAT ASAKURA CREATED.

GEOMETRIC PATTERNS FLICKER HERE AND THERE IN MY FIELD OF VISION.

KUYOH SUOH! WHEN DID SHE...?

DID YOU BETRAY ME!?

KUYOH.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE WORLD?

WHO IN THE HELL...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. SO IT'S ALREADY DIVERGED, HAS IT?

...I SEE.

IT'S LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD...

SO WHAT IS THIS, THEN?

THAT IS THE AN-SWER.

NO.

I HAVE COME HERE.

THE ONE AND ONLY, IN THE FLESH. I WAS ACTUALLY HOPING TO MA[redacted] A SLIGHTLY MORE DRAMATIC ENTRANCE, BUT THERE WASN'T TIME.

INDEED, IT IS ITSUKI KOIZUMI, JUST AS YOU SAY.

KOI-ZUMI?

HELLO, THERE.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER IT!

THIS IS SASAKI'S CLOSED SPACE!

IT CAN'T BE...!

FEEL FREE TO LOOK OUT-SIDE.

UNFOR-TUNATELY ...

...AS FAR AS THIS SCHOOL IS CONCERNED, IT DOES NOT EXIST ONLY WITHIN THE WORLD YOU AND YOUR COMRADES CLOSED OFF.

THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS...!?

THAT GIRL FROM BEFORE ...

HA (GASP)

THAT CAN'T BE.

THIS ISN'T SUZU-MIYA'S ...!

FASA (FWSH)

"ASTON-ISHMENT." THAT WAS THE ONLY WORD I CAN THINK OF.

TODAY IS SEEING A LOT OF UNEX-PECTED GUESTS.

HUH ...?

WHAT IS GOING ON ...?

HELLO, KYON-KUN.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

ASA-HINA-SAN!?

TEE HEE!

I GOT KOIZUMI-KUN TO BRING ME!

ALTHOUGH I REALLY WANTED TO POP OUT FROM THE BROOM CLOSET!

BA (FWAP)

IT DOESN'T SEEM AS THOUGH YOU'RE OPERATING UNDER MANY RESTRICTIONS HERE, SO IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE TO HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT.

YOUR TRUE FORM, I MEAN.

YOU SEEM WELL, THE PAST NOTWITH-STANDING.

I'M HONORED TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

KO (CLACK)

AS FAR AS THIS OPERATION GOES, I'M JUST A SINGLE PIECE OF IT.

IT WAS SPECIAL, TOP-LEVEL CLASSIFIED SECRET.

FUU (WHEW)

THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE.

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THIS, MYSELF.

WHICH KOIZUMI ARE YOU?

HEY, KOIZUMI.

I HAVE NO IDEA.

ASAHINA THE ELDER WAS CONTROLLING ASAHINA THE YOUNGER, BUT WHO'S CONTROLLING HER?

α? WHAT KIND OF CODE IS THAT?

IF PRESSED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I'M THE α VERSION.

I'M BOTH.

I TOO WAS FUSED A MOMENT AGO.

ONE IS FROM THE VERSION OF HISTORY WHERE WE WERE BUSY WITH THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS.

AH, PARDON ME. IT'S MERELY A CONVENIENT LABEL.

AND THE OTHER IS THE VERSION WHERE NAGATO FELL ILL, THROWING THE SOS BRIGADE INTO DYSFUNCTION.

AND SO THEY HAVE.

YOU SEEM AS THOUGH YOUR EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTED.

BUT NONE OF YOU YET UNDERSTAND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU UNDERESTIMATING US.

UNDOUBTEDLY YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK AND PREPARED YOUR COUNTERMEASURES.

NOR A BARELY-COMPETENT ALIEN.

NOT BY A HALF-BAKED TIME-TRAVELER, NOR A SHABBY ESPER.

SUZUMIYA, OUR AWE-INSPIRING BRIGADE CHIEF, WILL NOT BE OUTSMARTED.

SHE MAY NOT BE A GOD.

THIS MORNING, I FOUND THIS IN MY SHOE LOCKER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ IT?

PI (SNATCH)

...THAT EVEN GODLIKE ABILITIES CANNOT ANALYZE HER.

BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE ...

...SHE'S SUCH AN IRREGULAR HUMAN...

SO YASUMI LEFT A LETTER FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME.

BUT WHY YOU, KOIZUMI?

"PLEASE COME TO THE SCHOOL GATE AT SIX O'CLOCK THIS EVE-NING."

...WHEN YOU YOU HEADED HERE WITH SASAKI-SAN, KYOKO TACHIBANA, AND THAT TIME TRAVELER.

THE β VERSION OF MYSELF FOLLOWED AFTER YOU...

BUT I HADN'T FELT ANY PREMONITIONS OF ITS APPEARANCE, SO IT WAS RATHER SURPRISING.

GOOD OLD CLOSED SPACE.

THERE, THE TWO VERSIONS OF MYSELF SAW THE SAME THING.

MEANWHILE, THE α ME CAME TO THE SCHOOL GATE AS DIRECTED.

...I MET MY α SELF ALONE.

THEN JUST BEFORE I ENTERED CLOSED SPACE WITH HER...

THEN, ASAHINA-SAN HERE CALLED OUT TO MY β SELF.

THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS, KOIZUMI-KUN.

ALTHOUGH IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT YOU WERE NECESSARY.

THE MOMENT WE TOUCHED, WE BECAME ONE PERSON.

AND I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING.

YOU KNOW THE REST.

YOU MUST BE JOKING!

...YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO GO THIS FAR IN INTERFERING WITH ME!?

YOU'RE...

EDITING AN ALREADY-FIXED TIME PLANE WILL NOT CHANGE OUR FUTURE.

NO—IT MUST NOT BE CHANGED.

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO SOLIDIFY THAT FUTURE, EVEN IF IT MEANS SPLITTING THE WORLD IN TWO?

HE'S TREM-BLING... ARE THESE HIS TRUE FEEL-INGS?

OR ME, OR ANYONE HERE...

...IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR US.

TA (TMP)

IT WILL CHANGE.

NOT BECAUSE OF YOU.

BUT WITH THE POWER OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA, IT'S POSSIBLE.

...I COULD REMAKE EVERYTHING ABOUT THE SPACE-TIME INFORMATION I'VE LIVED THROUGH.

IF I COULD USE HER POWER...

NOT BY INDIVIDUALLY ALTERING TIME PLANES LITTLE BY LITTLE, BUT BY CORRECTING EVERY PLANE ON INTO INFINITY!

I COULD COMPLETELY AND PERFECTLY REWRITE EVERYTHING ...

...FROM THIS POINT ON INTO THE FUTURE.

...MY SISTER!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU...

AS IN, ASAHINA-SAN IS HIS...?

HUH? WHAT'D HE SAY? SISTER?

I... HAVE NO BROTHER.

AND LIKEWISE, THE ME WHO IS YOUR SISTER DOES NOT EXIST.

HISTORY THAT IS LOST... PEOPLE WHO ARE LOST...

...CAN NEVER RETURN.

I WILL GET YOU BACK.

THAT'S WHY I JOINED FORCES WITH THAT EXTRATER-RESTRIAL INTELLI-GENCE.

WHY ELSE WOULD I DEAL WITH SUCH A—!

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE!

TO THIS TIME PLANE, WHERE PEOPLE WALLOW IN THE FOLLY OF THEIR LIVES!

PLEASE, FORGET ABOUT ME.

WE DON'T BELONG HERE.

YOU MUSTN'T USE THE TPDD FOR SUCH THINGS.

YOU MUST UNDER-STAND...

...HOW IMPORTANT HARUHI SUZUMIYA IS FOR THIS TIME PLANE.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, OUR FUTURE WOULD BE...

WHAT THE FUTURE NEEDS ISN'T HARUHI SUZUMIYA, BUT HER POWER.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I BET ON A SECOND POSSIBILITY.

IF IT COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE ELSE, OTHER POSSIBILITIES APPEAR.

AND MY ALLY, KYOKO TACHIBANA, FOUND THE PERFECT PERSON.

SHE CAN CONTROL IT MUCH MORE SKILLFULLY THAN HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR US!

WE WOULDN'T BE TRAPPED BY FIXED EVENTS.

WE'D BE ABLE TO ERASE THEM...

...AND CHOOSE OUR OWN FUTURE!

WE'D BE ABLE TO ACCESS INFINITE POSSIBILITY!

BA (WHAP)

I WANT TO CHOOSE A FUTURE WITH YOU IN IT!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT, MY SISTER!

TO BE CONTINUED

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA
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